Work on Agartala-Sabroom Rail Line

1780. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to take up work on Agartala-Sabroom rail line in Tripura as Traffic-Cum-Engineering survey has been completed; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The survey is in progress. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Fall in Freight Revenue

1781. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fall in freight revenue and increase in pension outgo has put Railways into a financial crises; and

(b) what are the details of the freight revenue for the last two years and also pensions outgo for the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. In 1998-99, due to recessionary trend in economy, the Railways could move only 420.92 mt as against a target of 450 mt of freight traffic. Consequently freight earnings fell short of target by Rs. 1726 cr. This has lowered the base for both freight traffic and earnings. In the current year, taking into account incremental freight traffic, the target is placed at the same level as the last year, viz. 450 mt. Though this is expected to be achieved, change in traffic mix and lead may result in a shortfall in earnings of Rs. 250 cr, as compared to the target. As regards pension, from a level of Rs. 3509 cr. in 1997-98, the outgo was Rs. 4144 cr. in 1998-99 and is expected to be around

Rs. 4096 cr in the current year. Mainly as a result of these factors, the financial position of Railways has been considerably affected.

(b) Freight revenue and pension outgo during 1997-98 and 1998- 99 were as under:

(*Rs. in Cr.*)

Year	Freight Earnings	Pension Outgo
1997-98	19866.38	3509.61
1998-99	19960.39	4144.03

Rush of Passengers in Delhi-Guwahati Trains

1782. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is huge rush of passengers travelling from Delhi to Guwahati and vice-versa and that people do not get reservations due to long waiting; and

(b) if so, what action Government contemplate to increase the facilities for passengers going to North East, by introducing more trains or increasing reservation quota from Delhi to Guwahati, in trains like Rajdhani Express, North East Express and Brahmaputra Mail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Though there is a large demand of passengers travelling from Delhi to Guwahati and vice-versa, the same is satisfied through day to day watch on the waiting list of all the trains of this sector and by augmenting their capacity to the extent feasible. In order to provide additional accommodation to passengers during current summer season, in addition to running of summer specials between Delhi and Guwahati, the Rajdhani Express and Avadh Express trains will also be augmented by additional coaches.